

REMARKS

Claims presented for prosecution in this Application are claims 1 and 10-20, claims 21-25 being canceled by the present amendment and claims 2-9 having been previously canceled. In view of Applicants' remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 10-20 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the present Response be considered and entered, the rejections to the claims be withdrawn, and that the case now be passed to issue.

The Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, noting that numerals (14) and (25) have been utilized for multiple elements shown in the drawings.

In response, Applicants have amended drawing sheet 1 (Figure 1) so as to call out separate numerals for the operator's 'shoulder' (13) and the 'rear pivot knuckle' (14). A formal, Replacement drawing sheet 1 is attached to the present Response, indicating the separate use of numerals (13) and (14). No new matter has been entered.

Applicants have also amended drawing sheet 2 (Figures 2 and 4) so as to call out separate numerals for the 'groove' (26) and the 'female plate' (25). A formal, Replacement drawing sheet 2 is attached to the present Response, indicating the separate use of numerals (25) and (26). No new matter has been entered.

The Examiner has also objected to the drawing figures as failing to adequately show the 'arced groove' (26), as well as how the 'arced groove' engages the 'cam' (29).

In Response, Applicants note that formal, Replacement drawing sheet 2 now clearly shows the arced groove (26), as well as how the groove (26) engages the cam (29), as recited in the specification as originally filed.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the outstanding Objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification on various formal grounds.

In response, Applicants have amended the specification to ensure that all separate elements utilize separate numerals. Applicants further note that the amendments to the specification are merely formal and clerical in nature, and now correspond with the drawing sheets, in particular with newly submitted formal Replacement sheets 1/5 and 2/5.

The Examiner has also objected to the specification stating that “an arced groove”, should instead read “a arced groove”. Applicants respectfully submit that the use of ‘an’ when directly preceding a word starting with a vowel (“arced”) is believed to be grammatically correct. Of course, should the Examiner wish to make the change from “an” to “a” by way of Examiner’s Amendment, Applicants hereby accede to the same.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the outstanding Objections to the Specification be withdrawn.

The Objection to Claim 21

The Examiner has objected to claim 21 on formal grounds. In view of the cancellation of claim 21, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is now moot.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the outstanding Objection to claim 21 be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection of Claims 21-25

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-25 as being anticipated by various Known Hardware Elements, and Ichikawa.

Without conceding to the validity of the outstanding rejection, and merely in an attempt to advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 21-25.

In view of the above, Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the existing rejection of claims 21-25.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 10-20 are allowable, and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to expedite resolution of any issues that the Examiner may consider to remain unresolved. In particular, should a Notice of Allowance not be forthcoming, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned for a telephonic interview, an Examiner's Amendment, or the like, while the outstanding issues are fresh in the mind of the Examiner.

It is believed that no fees or deficiencies in fees are owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 13-0235 in the event any fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Nicholas J. Tuccillo/
Nicholas J. Tuccillo
Registration No. 44,322
Attorney for Applicant

McCORMICK, PAULDING & HUBER LLP
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103-4102
Tel. (860) 549-5290
Fax. (413) 733-4543